

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 24th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Church Fields, Monks Eleigh. The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs. P. Derry, as the Chairman was absent took the Chair for the evening's meeting and welcomed the following Parish Councillors: Cllrs. J. Clarke and C. Eames, as well as Mrs. J. Antill, County Councillor; Mr. C. Arthey, District Councillor; PCSO Jamie Fudge; Mrs. V. Waples, Clerk to the Council; Mr. R. Horn, Community Field Officer for Mid Suffolk and Babergh, Community Action Suffolk and 30 members of the village to the meeting.

The Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies for absence - the following apologies of absence were received and are recorded as accepted: Chairman D Reynolds; Parish Cllrs. B Bailey and D Reynolds.
2. Minutes of the meeting of 25th March 2013 - these were agreed by all eligible to vote as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the as such.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Provision and use of the Defibrillator - instruction on how to use the defibrillator had recently been issued to all in the village as a flyer. It was noted that there were also copies on the website and further training sessions would be made available should sufficient numbers come forward. It was noted that the volunteers who worked in the shop would be offered training sessions in the near future.
- ii. The Parish's Emergency Plan and Procedures - confirmation had been given by the District's Emergency Planning Officer that the emergency plan was a very good example and the Parish Council should be commended for undertaking the project. It was highlighted that the plan should be kept up-to-date as it was regarded as a live document. The meeting was asked to keep the Clerk informed of any changes in volunteers, vulnerable people, elderly residents and/or the equipment that was kept by those volunteers. A sanitised copy of the plan could be found on the Parish's Website or as a hard copy document available from the Clerk.
- iii. The new Village Hall on the Parish owned Playing Field - it was confirmed that planning permission for the new Village Hall on the parish owned playing field had been granted unanimously by Babergh's Development Committee in November 2013. It was confirmed that there would be an archaeological dig, carried out by the Village Hall Trust on the stretch to the end of the football pitch, within the next few days and that 5 of the conditions under the planning permission for the erection of the Village Hall on the Playing Field site had now been submitted to the planning department. At the VHT AGM on 30th April details would be put to the parish asking for its approval to proceed with the proposal to build the new village hall on this site. With regards to the sale of the Village Hall site, s106 agreement and survey of the current Village Hall - it was noted that the negotiations on the changes to the S106 were nearly at an end but that technical issues had delayed the issue of the document. It was confirmed that the VHT and the PC were still negotiating the terms of the lease and that the insurers were prepared to continue to insure the building for the next year or so. It was mentioned that the VHT was in agreement that it would not be viable to spend large sums of money on propping up the hall.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MR. ROBERT HORN, COMMUNITY FIELD OFFICER, COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK FOR MID SUFFOLK AND BABERGH.

Mr Horn was invited to submit his report on the history of Community Action Suffolk and how it represented 10 different charities which had merged together to form the organisation. he gave a brief outline as to the function of CAS and how it could help communities evolve. He made the meeting aware that CAS works with a range of partners to provide support for community led planning by encouraging communities to come together to help shape their future and improve the local area. He provided brief introductions to Neighbourhood Plans; Parish Plans; Village Consultations; Focus Group Meetings and Good Neighbour Schemes. The meeting was made aware that CAS could offer training; bespoke consultations; specialist software for questionnaires and help with the actions resulting from community plans as well as provide specialist assistance to Village Halls in terms of governance, trusteeship, funding and searches.. He also made the meeting aware that this type of assistance was open to all the community. Mr Horn was thanked for attending the meeting and speaking to the Village.

5. POLICE REPORT - WEST BABERGH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

PSO Jamie Fudge was invited to submit his report - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

It was noted that the main crime spree within the village was that of thefts from the graveyard and pot plants along Church Hill and The Street. The SNT were carrying out regular patrols and if the thefts continue were prepared to install CCTV cameras within the graveyard itself. It was confirmed that the PCC were also looking at various measures that they could undertake in the meantime. The meeting's attention was brought to the Public Meeting for the Babergh area with the Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and Chief Constable Douglas Paxton on 9 April 2014.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - MR. CLIVE ARTHEY

District Councillor, Mr. Clive Arthey was invited to present his report - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

When questioned, Mr. Arthey confirmed that the collection of textiles bags was only intended to divert them from the blue bin. At no time was it expected or hoped that it would impact on those items donated to Charity Shops. It was also noted that a lower grade of textiles was accepted in the bags collected alongside the blue bin waste.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR - MRS. JENNY ANTILL

County Councillor, Mrs. Jenny Antill was invited to present her report - *a full copy can be seen at Appendix A.*

She mentioned that it was a year since she was elected as the County Councillor for the Cosford Division and it had been a very busy and enjoyable period for her.

The following comments were received from the floor with regards to the proposed closure of Monks Eleigh School:

- Parish needs state of the art school within the county for the education of the young - could the current site support this?
- The public should have been informed of the action being taken by SCC and there should have been more transparency - County Cllr. Antill mentioned that she had requested that the scrutiny committee looks at the problems associated with Monks Eleigh and Badwell Ash once the consultation process has finished
- Lack of support by SCC once Ofsted report was published - County Cllr. Antill confirmed that SCC had made 28 separate visits to the school once the report was published
- Need to ensure that for the County to remain viable, young families need to be encouraged to add to the economic viability of the County and its sustainability
- Schools closing will have an impact on rural economies - District Cllr. Arthey reminded the meeting that the Core Strategy allows for growth especially affordable homes and home aimed at young families. County Cllr. Antill confirmed that the most appropriate growth rates were supported by SCC.
- Noted that an invitation issued to all villagers to discuss the closure of the school but not one parent of school age children turned up.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR DONALD REYNOLDS

The Vice-Chair of the Parish Council submitted a written report on behalf of the Chairman:

Over the last 12 months there have been 6 Parish Council meetings and 4 additional meetings. The Parish Council has consulted on 7 Planning Applications, recommending approval on all of them. Following the setting of the 2014/15 precept there will be no increase in Council Tax for Monks Eleigh on band D properties.

Future changes in regulations are proposed which the PC will respond to in the coming months:

- There is a proposal to withdraw the ability of PC's to reclaim V.A.T
- The Local Audit and Accountability Act will affect the way accounts are produced and will cover a transparency code, a code on local authority publicity, filming and use of social media at council meetings and a new audit regime.
- It is proposed that the use of cheques will be phased out and PCs will be required to use online banking

The Emergency Plan for Monks Eleigh is now completed thanks to a lot of hard work from Parish Cllr Bailey and the Affordable Housing in Back Lane has been completed and all the houses are now occupied. The village defibrillator is now sited on the wall of the Community Shop. Our thanks go to Dr. Gerald Gould for his generous gift and to Cllr Mrs Reynolds for arranging the purchase and installation of the machine and also organising the hands on training. We also thank the Village Community Shop for their help and support in providing this invaluable asset to our village. Our Community Shop celebrated its 10th anniversary of trading and is still going strong, thanks to the work of the Management Committee and all the volunteers who keep this very necessary facility running. However, more volunteers are always welcome to lighten the load.

Following the sale of The Swan the Parish Council would like to recognise the work of Carol and Nigel and wish them the very best for their future. The PC looks forward to The Swan reopening under new management in the Summer, thus ensuring the village retains a village pub for its residents.

Unfortunately our village school went into special measures last year following a scheduled OFSTED inspection. Since the inspection report was published the number of pupils on roll has fallen dramatically and the future of the school is now in jeopardy. At the time of writing this report no decision by SCC or the

DFE on the future of the school has yet been taken.

The feasibility study which was carried out last year by the Parish Council was completed and Planning Permission for a new Village Hall on the Recreation Ground was approved unanimously by the Babergh Planning Committee. The Parish Council and Village Hall Trust are now working together to secure grants and funding for this exciting new project. Planning permission for 4 houses has been reapplied for the Old Village Hall site. It is anticipated that following the sale of this site approximately £100,000 will need to be raised to complete the new Village Hall project.

I feel sure that if all the village pulls together with the community spirit it has shown for previous events such as Millennium Celebrations and Jubilees, this CAN be achieved.

The Annual Village Litter Pick was held on Saturday 8th March and was well supported by many village residents. Our thanks go to all of those people who gave up their valuable time to help clean up the village. It was evident that the main areas for litter were the roads leading into the village. On the whole the residential areas of the village were litter free, however dog fouling remains the main pollution issue.

This year it was decided to create an Annual Community Award to be given to any person in the village who has made an outstanding contribution to community life. This has been awarded to Mrs Sheila Beckett in the first instance. This awarded is to be funded from the Chairman's allowance.

Finally I extend my thanks to our County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors for all their hard work and support throughout the past year, and to our Clerk, Vicky for making sure all Parish Council duties are carried out correctly and for keeping councillors well informed with all official procedures. I would also like to make a note of special thanks to Mrs. Grossett who has recently resigned her post as Parish Councillor and who did a great deal of hands on hard work and took her position very seriously.

Comment made by Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and supported by the floor

It is usual for a chairman to deliver the chairman's report themselves, but today I, as vice chairman, have been asked to do this. I would therefore like to take this unusual opportunity to put on record our thanks to Cllr. Reynolds for all his work as chairman, not only in the formal capacity of his chairmanship but also for all the practical work that he carries out behind the scenes which we as villagers are not always aware is happening.

9. PUBLIC FORUM

the following questions and comments were raised within the public forum:

- i. Puddle along the Brent Eleigh Road from the bottom of the Millennium Green. It was confirmed that this had been unblocked a number of weeks back and the drains were coping sufficiently.
- ii. Could the Parish Council put pressure on the Trustees/Directors of MESCH to release the monies raised by the village for the MESCH project and have them paid back to the village? It was confirmed that this had been mentioned and it was hoped that the situation would soon be sorted.
- iii. A trustee from MESCH confirmed that they would be looking into/discussing the matter of monies very soon but as there was no formal closure of the school, MESCH was still actually in business.

There being no further questions or comments from those present the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council declared the meeting closed and thanked all for coming and for their contributions.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLIVE ARTHEY
2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONKS ELEIGH

Integration and Funding.

Last year I told you about the continuing integration of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council services. Members from both authorities have been working together to look at the way services are delivered and come up with better and more cost effective ways to deliver them. In some cases that involves things we do that might be better done by others, or might not need to be done at all. The principal driver remains cost as we strive to balance the Council's budget with reducing levels of Government grant. I am pleased that once again there is no increase in Babergh's Council Tax this year.

Amongst the issues we will be considering in the coming year are the accommodation needs of the two councils, grounds maintenance and the possibility of installing solar panels on some of the council's houses.

Development Plan.

Babergh's Core Strategy was delayed to re-examine issues at Brantham, but has now been approved and adopted. It provides for growth in 'core' and 'hinterland' villages to address the particular housing and employment needs of communities and protect facilities whilst also helping to satisfy the district's housing requirements. Monks Eleigh is a 'hinterland' village where some growth may be appropriate.

Suffolk Waste Partnership.

The Energy from Waste plant at Blakenham is on schedule for summer commissioning and will be fully operational to take all Suffolk's residual (black bin) waste by the end of 2014. A new tomato growing enterprise is proposed on land close to the site which will use some of the heat generated by the plant. Although our recycling performance is amongst the best in the UK, there are still recyclable plastics, glass and textiles in black bin waste. If we could get just 1% of household waste out of the black bin and into the blue we could save Suffolk's Council Tax payers £200,000 a year. A new contract is being awarded for the MRF at Blakenham which will continue to take blue bin mixed recyclables with some additional items to be included. Like the EfW the MRF will be taking waste from all Suffolk councils.

Finally, I wish you well in your continuing efforts to replace this hall with something more appropriate, and will help you where I can to achieve that.

This year will be my 24th as your District Councillor and the last of this current term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Parish Council, your clerk Vicky and all of you.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JENNY ANTILL
2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONKS ELEIGH

A good deal of time at the County Council over the past year has been spent discussing financial matters. The bottom line is that the council has to save some £156 million over four years, which is a great challenge.

The budget for the next financial year: 2014/15 was passed by the council in mid-February. It is hoped to cut some £38m from the council's controllable costs during the year. It is hoped that this can be achieved without compromising front line services, although as time goes on this becomes more challenging. We need to take more radical steps than simply salami slicing across the board, and it is likely that we will be looking to build on relationships with district councils and also adjacent county councils such as Norfolk and Essex with a view to pooling overheads and sharing services. We also need to continue to look hard at every activity with a view to seeing if we can do things better for less. The administration at the council pledged at the time of the election not to increase council tax over the next four years. Accordingly there will be no rise in the County Council's portion of council tax this year.

Education

Despite the fact that examination results last year improved a little faster than the national average, progress is too slow and educational standards in Suffolk schools continue to give serious concern. The lack of improvement to date is not altogether surprising in that measures recommended in our action plan to improve education across the County have only recently been put in place. The improvement of educational standards is the number one priority for the administration but it has to be admitted is very challenging.

Highways

I understand that the County's road maintenance budget – used for fixing potholes - has been protected from cuts. This is just as well since the extremely wet winter has caused a great many problems right across Suffolk, and the Cosford Division is no exception. In October the County Council commenced a new contract with the private company, May Gurney, who will from now on be carrying out road repairs. It cannot be said that the contract has got off to a good start, with a good many potholes going unrepaired for unacceptably long periods. The Cabinet Member for Highways is doing what he can to address the issues. However, the very difficult weather conditions this year have not helped. If you have a pothole in your area, or any other similar road maintenance issue, I have found that reporting it on the County Council website often gets the best results.

Better Broadband

There has been no change to the County Council's commitment to deliver a broadband connection of at least 2 mps across the whole county by the end of 2015. In recent weeks there has been further good news however. The council has been successful in securing an additional £5million from the government. This means that the Better Broadband for Suffolk

programme, currently working to make superfast speeds (24 megabits per second (mbps) or more) available to 85% of the county, can start working towards a higher coverage target of up to 95%. This will help to make high-speed fibre broadband available to the hardest-to-reach communities. We are now working on how to connect up the last 5 percent.

Social Care and Health

The largest part of the County Council's budget is the provision of Social Care in the Community. Since the beginning of last year we have also been responsible for promoting Public Health. This is a very challenging area, particularly at a time when budgets are under threat. It is an interesting fact that at the time of the creation of the National Health Service in 1948 45% of the population died before they were 65. It is estimated that in 2030 one in five people in the country will be over 65. I do not have the Suffolk figures to hand, but I would not be surprised if we have not already reached that number here. In this connection we have recently undertaken a consultation about how we commission care for those living at home. We received over 1000 responses which indicated that both care recipients and providers want is more flexibility and choice. The council will now be seeing how these aspirations can be put into practice.

Monks Eleigh

Monks Eleigh was one of 18 parishes within her patch and it was fair to say that it had proved to be more time consuming than the rest. She would continue to give her assistance where needed and would welcomed the opportunity to answer questions where possible.



BABERGH DISTRICT

Report To Monks Eleigh Parish Council For APM Monday 24th of March 2014

This report covers the period from 21st March 2013 to 24th March 2014. During this time there have been 20 crimes recorded that affect the village of Monks Eleigh. This compares to 14 crimes for the same period in the previous year

BREAKDOWN OF CRIME

Burglary Dwelling	-	1 report	(Increase from previous year)
Burglary Other Building	-	1 Report	(Decrease from previous year)
Vehicle crime	-	3 Reports	(Increase from previous year)
Assaults and public order	-	0 Reports	(Decrease from previous year)
Theft	-	14 Reports	(Increase from previous year)
Criminal Damage	-	0 Reports	(The same as the from previous year)
Other Miscellaneous	-	1 Report	(Decrease from previous year) (Breach of restraining order)

If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

There are many ways in which you can help yourselves not becoming a victim of crime. If you would like to have a tailored crime prevention survey for you, your home, vehicle or business premise, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Babergh West safer neighbourhood team. In addition to this there is a website called www.immobilise.com, where you can register your property for FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen.

PCSO 3226 Fudge

PC 704 Horton

Babergh West SNT

31 March 2016

New Non Emergency Telephone: 101

barerghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

www.suffolk.police.uk

